

# The Flyleaf

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Friends of Fondren Library Vol. 34, No. 1

Winter, 1984



# RICE UNIVERSITY FONDREN LIBRARY

Founded under the charter of the university dated May 18, 1891, the library was established in 1913. Its present facility was dedicated November 4, 1949, and rededicated in 1969 after a substantial addition, both made possible by gifts of Ella F. Fondren, her children, and the Fondren Foundation and Trust as a tribute to Walter William Fondren. The library recorded its half-millionth volume in 1965; its one millionth volume was celebrated April 22, 1979.

# THE FRIENDS OF FONDREN LIBRARY

The Friends of Fondren Library was founded in 1950 as an association of library supporters interested in increasing and making better known the resources of the Fondren Library at Rice University. The Friends, through members' dues and sponsorship of a memorial and honor gift program, secure gifts and bequests and provide funds for the purchase of rare books, manuscripts, and other materials which could not otherwise be acquired by the library.

# THE FLY LEAF

Founded October 1950 and published quarterly by The Friends of Fondren Library, Rice University, P. O. Box 1892, Houston, Texas 77251, as a record of Fondren Library and Friends' activities, and of the generosity of the library's supporters.

Editor, Elizabeth Dabney; Associate Editor, Mrs. Victor H. Abadie Jr.; Editorial Committee, Samuel Carrington, Will Dowden.

# FRIENDS OF FONDREN LIBRARY

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COVER: *Sammy, the Owl mascot*

*Photographs by Pamela Morris and Elizabeth Dabney*

Dear Friends,

We Friends raise money and spend money for library projects. Since it's easier and more fun for me to write about spending money I'll review some of our projects, give my thoughts on them, and make suggestions for future projects.

Our current fiction shelves comprise many worldly titles which, when I look at the books, I really don't know whether I'd like any of them or not. As a cure for this predicament I'd like to see a copy of the New York Time Book Review right there with the books, to guide readers in a selection. And of course, we should have the books on the lists of "Best Sellers," "New and Noteworthy," "And Bear in Mind." We should make sure that we have the many little magazines that introduce up-and-coming writers.

The proposed Sarah Lane Lounge on the third floor will give a place in the library for everybody to get in an easy going, comfortable setting, somewhat removed from the functionalism of the rest of the library. It took some beyond-the-pale donations to get the lounge off the ground, and we did it. It'll be ready for us in a few weeks.

Our student book collecting contest comes up this spring. We'll award \$800.00 in five prizes, three to undergraduates and two to graduate students. As you can imagine it's to encourage students to collect books and receive notice of their collections. The rules of the contest invite students to think of unique groupings of their own books. Quantity and expense of the books don't make any difference in the judging.

Don't forget the lectures and music events that we sponsor during the year.

In our coign of vantage the Friends ought to urge people to use the library, not only Rice alumni but also the general public. I say this because Mr. Rice in his will stated that the university was to serve the public; the library goes along with the deal. I'm afraid that some prosaic library wardens and some stodgy profs would cringe at the idea of a pandemic Rice Library.

I wish that we could get the library to pick up the journals that it discontinued because of President Hackerman's budget cuts. When I asked a librarian why they had stopped the Journal of the American Medical Association, he said, "We stopped it so as not to overlap the journals in the Medical Center." If I should want to look up something in that journal I'm not of a mind to traipse across Main Street to get it; or wait and pay for the article to come through the loan service. A first rate university library ought to have leading journals on its shelves.

I have more on my list of suggested changes for the library. After all, for us to follow the charter of the F.F. which says, "... make better known the resources of the Fondren Library..." we'll have to make lists—and follow them through.

Sincerely,



Karl Doerner Jr.  
Vice President, Programs

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## RAIDERS OF THE LOST OWL OR HOW SAMMY GOT HIS NAME\*

Ronald Fritze

The beginning of 1917 was a nervous time for many Americans. Peace did not reign around them. Europe was locked in the mortal combat of the First World War, Tsarist Russia was tottering, American soldiers were in Mexico chasing Pancho Villa, and war with Germany was looking more and more likely. Little did the people of Houston, College Station, and the intervening towns realize but they too would soon experience a kind of guerilla warfare in their midst. Fortunately, this combat was simply part of the athletic rivalry between the young Rice Institute and Texas A&M. As such, it remained good hearted fun and more nearly resembled the antics of a Marx Brothers movie than anything else. In terms of its historical significance, this chain of events gave Rice's mascot Sammy his name.

In those days when intercollegiate sports were still more an extracurricular activity than a major national industry, the little Rice Institute was able to compete quite successfully against its athletic rivals. Although Rice had only been playing varsity basketball for three years, it had managed to defeat Texas A&M in every encounter. There was even talk that the Owls were a jinx to the Cadets. The two schools played once again on the 15th and 16th of January 1917 at the City Auditorium of Houston. Rice won the first game 19-16, but in the second encounter they were defeated 21-13. The jinx was broken, much to Texas A&M's delight.

Understandably in high spirits, members of the Texas A&M basketball team noticed that the Rice fans had left the school's six foot tall, 191 pound stuffed owl unattended. This mock stuffed owl had recently been created to serve as a symbol of the school for everyone to rally around. Sensing a golden opportunity for a prank against Rice, the men of A&M took the owl back with them to College Station. There they proclaimed their guest a member of the Corps and even went so far as to make it their general. The new general was even introduced to the entire body of cadets and reviewed them as they paraded to supper. Even Texas A&M's president W.B. Bizzell joined in the fun and had his picture taken with the owl.

Rice students, all the while, vehemently denied that Texas A&M had the authentic stuffed owl in their possession. To counter such charges, the students of Texas A&M had pictures of the owl taken around prominent parts of the campus. They also issued a challenge to the students of Rice. The A&M student paper *Battalion* carried a story about the captured owl and ended with "If Rice wishes to claim their Bird and ever think that they are able to take him safely back to

the Insti--toot, they can find him at 37 Milner Hall, College Station, Texas."

Needless to say, the Rice students did not need this challenge to spur on their efforts to regain the owl. Plans for its recovery had begun immediately after the abduction. Part of those plans involved the denial that Texas A&M even possessed the real mascot. Another duplicate owl was constructed at Rice to cloud the issue even further. This approach was not simply a petulant refusal on the part of the Rice students to admit that the other side had the upper-hand. Instead, it was a strategy intended to lull the Rice owl's captors into a false sense of security.

Unfortunately, Rice's strategy did nothing to reduce the security measures taken at College Station to protect the new General Owl. Only four members of the entire student body of Texas A&M knew where the owl was being kept when he was not on triumphal display. This circumstance made things difficult for the newly formed "Owl Protective Association" at Rice, whose sole purpose was the recovery of the school mascot. On Friday, 19 January, they dispatched a private detective to College Station to locate the owl. Despite the failure of the detective to contact them, a party of thirteen Rice men disguised as cadets journeyed to the Texas A&M campus on the next day. There, they rendezvoused with the detective at 1:30 am on the 21st. At that point he informed them of his failure to locate their owl. Undaunted by this setback, the Rice students proceeded to search the campus. When they were unable to locate their mascot in any of the main campus buildings, they even started a room by room search of the dormitories posing as bull sergeants of the Corps. The approach of dawn forced the abandonment of this first rescue effort before all the dorms had been completely checked. Later, it was revealed that the search party had ironically come within two rooms of the owl's hideaway.

Refusing to admit defeat, the members of the Owl Protective Association immediately began planning a second rescue mission. A new detective named Snowball was hired and on 29 January he went up to College Station. Upon his arrival, Snowball managed to gain the confidence of the captive owl's jailers by posing as a magazine writer doing a story on Texas A&M's prank. After he determined the owl's whereabouts, the detective telegraphed his Rice employers on noon of Tuesday, 30 January. His coded message was destined to be forever commemorated in Rice's history: "Sammy is better and would like to see his parents tonight at 11 o'clock."

Seventeen members of the Owl Protective Association immediately set out for College Station after receiving Snowball's message. Travelling in a Hudson Super-six and two Fords, the raiders arrived at 11:30 pm and were greeted by Snowball who informed them of their owl's location. It was learned that the mascot was kept in a third floor room of the U.S. Armory, the

## THE FOOTBALL TEAM OF 1916



TOP ROW: ARBUCKLE (COACH), I. W. McFARLAND, JARVIS, BAIR, POTT, KARR, GRISON, CARROLL, JACKSON,  
CUMMINGS (ASSISTANT COACH), STANFORD (ASSISTANT COACH)  
MIDDLE ROW: RUDD, DELL, FULWILER, BROWN (CAPTAIN), FENDLEY, DORMANT, McFARLAND (L. H.)  
BOTTOM ROW: BRICK, VANCE

Photo from The Campanile, 1917

strongest room on the campus. In spite of this obstacle and the detective's skepticism about their chances for success, the party decided to attempt the owl's recapture.

A party of three, lead by senior Howard D. Fulwiler, entered the armory. Unfortunately, the stoutness of the third floor door defied their best efforts to achieve a quiet break-in. Instead they only managed to arouse the curiosity of several bull sergeants patrolling the campus. After being chased around the campus several times in a madcap manner, the three would-be burglars rejoined the main group. It was then decided to abandon stealth and advance en masse on the armory.

Six men entered the armory while another two in the Hudson diverted a night watchman by engaging him in conversation. After considerable effort the six men managed to break down the door and secured their prize. Dowsing the owl with gasoline, the rescuers next carried it to the waiting Hudson. There they encountered the night watchman. Initially they tried to convince him that they were authorized to be moving the owl. The watchman, however, remained unconvinced and began to fire his 44 pistol into the air as the Rice men fled the scene in their car. Apparently not satisfied with the watchman's efforts to arouse the sleeping campus, the occupants of the Hudson started to careen around the campus all the while honking its horn. At the same time the remaining members of the party painted the numbers 20-0 on as many buildings as they possibly could. It was the score of Rice's football victory over Texas A&M in the previous fall. Then after inflicting as much insult and noise on the Texas A&M campus as they prudently could, the Rice students withdrew to a pre-arranged rendezvous off the campus.

At the rendezvous, it was discovered that two members of the expedition, sophomores Buhl Moore and Val T. Billups, were missing. Not wishing to abandon anyone to the wrath of the Corps, the Hudson returned to the campus after transferring the stuffed owl to one of the departing Fords. By that time the Texas A&M campus was fully awake although by no means organized. Bugles blared around the campus as everywhere cadets milled around trying to figure out what was happening. The commotion only increased when the marauding Hudson appeared for the second time. It was soon forced to retreat. Fortunately, Moore and Billups reappeared and were picked up by the Hudson. With that fortuitous reunion, the Hudson headed south toward Houston after the speeding Fords. It seemed that the Rice men had succeeded in recovering their owl and making their escape virtually unscathed. Luck, however, soon turned against the little party.

Mechanical failures began to plague the automobiles. The lighting systems on both Fords failed, and shortly thereafter the lead car broke down completely. Unable to see it in the road, the second Ford ran into it. This collision was not serious so the second Ford continued on while the Hudson towed the disabled first Ford. This solution quickly proved unworkable and forced the abandonment of the first Ford in a ditch. Still all was not lost and success only seemed as far away as the drive down to Houston.

The hopes of the Rice men were further dampened, however, by the sight of an H. & T.C. railroad train going by. It was loaded with several hundred Cadets heading south to cut them off from Houston. This contingency had been anticipated by the Rice students, but through miscalculation, they made their assault on

the armory before and not after the train had left College Station. In hopes of finding an alternative route, the Rice cars turned off onto a side road. Once again mechanical problems occurred. Several miles down the road the second Ford completely broke down while the Hudson ran out of gas due to a punctured fuel tank. After spending the remainder of the night in the country, the two cars were taken into Milliken for repairs.

In the meantime, 1200 Cadets were combing the countryside for the little party in what must rank as one of the biggest manhunts in Texas history. Their efforts were paid off partially by the capture of the two cars and nine of the Rice students at the Milliken garage. The remaining eight students now found themselves marooned with a 191 pound stuffed owl to lug around. At that point it was decided to save the owl's canvas skin and burn the stuffing. Smoke from the fire attracted a party of pursuing Cadets and resulted in the capture of four more Rice men. Fortunately, the four remaining free members of the party had the owl's skin and were determined to return it to the Institute campus.

The little party was now faced by a countryside swarming with Cadet search parties. Cadets occupied the towns of Milliken and Navasota and had seized control of the public transport, the telegraph, and the telephone system. Things were beginning to look very hopeless as close calls with Cadet patrols multiplied through the day. After almost two days of continuous action, the four remaining members of the rescue party were nearing exhaustion. At long last, however, luck started to favor the Rice students again.

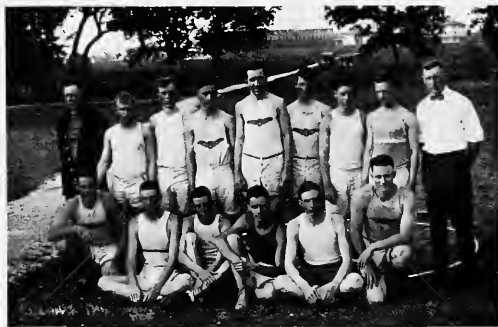
Late in the afternoon they encountered two hunters from Navasota. The hunters were well aware of what was going on since 300 Cadets had occupied their town. Amused by the whole situation, it appealed to

their sporting instincts to aid the Rice students in their quest against overwhelming odds. The students were hidden in the hunters' car and taken to a home in Navasota. Then at 4:00 am Thursday morning 1 February, these good Samaritans drove the four Rice men and the owl's skin to Houston. After nearly two days, what was left of the owl was safely deposited at the campus of the Rice Institute at 7:30 am that morning.

Thanks to this incredible adventure, the honor of the young Rice Institute had been vindicated. The cost had not been small since thirteen of the seventeen members of the Owl Protective Association had been captured. That situation was quickly corrected, however, by the personal intervention of Rice's president Odell Lovett. He called up the president of Texas A&M and said, "There's enough of that horseplay going around. Have those Rice students turned loose and let them come back and go to school." President Bizzell, of course, complied. Detective Snowball's fate was not so kind. The Cadets released him but only after shaving his head, taking his clothes, and sending him on his way on a cold, dark night. One can only hope the Owl Protective Association paid him well, for besides making the rescue possible, Snowball gave Sammy his name. That name was commemorated in a poem appearing in the *Thresher* on 15 February, and it has stuck ever since.

*\*This article began as the answer to a reference question submitted by some eighth grade boys in Oklahoma. I would like to thank Lauren Brown of the Woodson Research Center and Patricia Bode of the University Archives of Texas A&M University for providing me with the material. Research for this article was not supported by a grant from the Owl Protective Association.*

## THE TRACK TEAM OF 1916



TOP ROW: ROE (ASSISTANT COACH), SPELLER, SANFORD, EASTERWOOD, FENDLEY, WATERS (CAPTAIN), GEORGE, BRICK, ARBUCKLE (COACH)  
BOTTOM ROW: COLSTON, KINGLAND, FARHING, LAMAR, LILLARD, WHITE

Photo from The Campanile, 1917

## A REPORT ON LIBRARY PRESERVATION —AN ADMINISTRATIVE CHALLENGE

Ferne B. Hyman

*Assistant University Librarian for Collection  
Management reports on the seminar she at-  
tended at the Library of Congress.*

The preservation of library collections is recognized as one of the most pressing problems facing librarians in the second half of this century. Deterioration of the paper used in the last one hundred years is a fact of library life everywhere. Horror stories abound detailing the destruction of books which disintegrate whenever touched, bindings broken and torn, pages ripped or missing. The continuing problem of theft from libraries in addition to the chemical and physical destruction is also part of preservation/conservation concerns.

Librarians suggest that a volume a day can be swept up from the floors of library stacks in the form of "yellow snow" which refers to the brittle pages flaking away on the shelves. The rate of deterioration far exceeds the rate of preservation or prevention. New technologies and cooperative efforts should accelerate preservation projects; however, the continuing problem of funding remains a deterrent. The scope of the problem is so large that an educated estimate suggests that as many as half of the research library collections in the United States will be unusable by the end of the century. That frightening statistic should inspire us to action. But the resources required for remedies are, as stated, difficult to find.

The picture is bleak but not completely without hope. Many libraries, organizations and individuals are making efforts to address and redress the crisis. Nationally, the Library of Congress is setting an example through many programs already under way and by supporting and consulting with regional and local libraries and groups. Some projects of the Library of Congress include restoring deteriorating materials where possible and desirable. To avoid future restoration needs, the conservators attempt preventive maintenance and clean, repair, or re-bind when applicable. Reprints of deteriorated items are added to a collection if they are available and are designated as necessary for the collection. When there are no reprints to purchase but preserving the intellectual content of the material is important, the items are photo-reproduced or micro-filmed.

The Library of Congress is also working on research in new technologies to solve some of the preservation problems. Laser techniques and optical disc technologies are being refined for practical application. And the Library of Congress is seeking cooperation with publishers in order to avoid future problems through use of acid-free paper in the publication and binding

process. One of the large projects at the Library of Congress is the de-acidification of the thousands of volumes in the collection that were printed on acid paper. There and at the NASA research facility in Virginia a process of fumigation is used requiring a very large container that removes the acid from the paper. The cost factor now is figured at approximately \$5.00 per volume. Most library budgets cannot add that expenditure to the present costs of acquisition and processing. This method is, however, a step forward for all preservation/conservation attempts. The Library of Congress and NASA are working on obtaining funding to set up a de-acidification plant in Virginia to treat 50,000 volumes each year, and to provide regional plants for future operations.

Also nationally, but with greatest impact in New York and New England, the RLG (Research Libraries Group) has a preservation program which is largely based on retaining the intellectual content of materials rather than attempting to salvage the actual book or manuscript. Therefore the thrust of their effort is replacement, photo-reproduction and micro-reproduction. A major undertaking in RLG is the filming of Americana published between 1876 and 1900 with cooperating libraries assuming responsibility for the filming of specific years. In effect, while not discarding the original, usable copies are made available to the public so that the information contained in a book or document is not lost. There will be a single storage area designated for the microform masters with copies accessible to the library world (for a fee) as needed. The National Register of Microform Masters produced by the Library of Congress is and will continue to be an important publication so that there is bibliographical control of the microforms available from all libraries.

The Association of Research Libraries is cooperating with RLG and other preservation specialists in establishing the ARL Microform Project. Microform bibliographic control is vital; the ARL Microform Project catalog program will eventually create cataloging records in machine-readable form for "millions of titles in microform sets."

In addition to the RLG microform project and the cooperative ARL program, there are individual filming projects occurring across the United States in libraries which contain unique collections of rare, archival or manuscript materials, such as those at Harvard, the Universities of Cincinnati, California at Berkeley, Michigan, Texas and Washington.

All of the above projects are significant and useful. However, there are actions that local libraries can take to preserve their collections and prevent future damage and deterioration. All can benefit from conservation research and the experience gained from programs

underway. Keeping abreast of the available information through publications, workshops and meetings is vital. Many resources are available to assist with the start of a preservation program. However, each library is unique and preservation needs often differ.

Environmental conditions are essential to preserving a library collection. Damage to paper and to the glue in the bindings occur with temperature and humidity changes. Delicate machinery reacts to drastic and sudden fluctuations in humidity and temperature as do books and micro-materials. Economy in utility bills is important but may be shortsighted. The question is not only one of replacing the books at increased costs, but also of the inability to replace some items no longer available and therefore lost to future researchers. Repair work such as rebinding, page repair, and encapsulation of important material must be done constantly and some endangered volumes should be given special protection to prevent further damage.

Those individuals responsible for repair need special training. Recent research reveals that many standard repair methods of the past are now considered harmful. There are many experts who provide training on the local level either individually or cooperatively within regions. Each library should begin to effect changes that will influence preservation/conservation attitudes. Both library staff members and library users must learn conservation techniques.

From the moment a book is published, its future is determined. The papers, the binding, how it is packed and shipped to the library are all factors of conservation. The library's immediate responsibilities begin when the book is unpacked and placed on book trucks for processing. Handling of books during this procedure includes cataloging and marking of the volumes. Preparation of materials for binding is part of the library operation as well as receiving recently-bound books. All these activities require special knowledge and attention to prevent damage or the beginning of deterioration.

Even in the shelving process the shelve must be trained to place the books on trucks and on the shelves with enough spacing so that the books stand straight without being too tight or so loose that they lean. Users should be able to take a book from the shelf without pulling it by the head of the spine, but rather from the center of the book. Books should never be shelved on

their fore-edges but always in an upright position or, in the case of large folios, flat on the shelf.

Users of libraries need to know that books can be damaged and destroyed through careless handling. Food spilled on pages is devastating. Food in libraries draws insects that destroy books. Rubber bands, paper clips, pencils and pens are all potentially damaging to the materials. Spines of books are easily broken if the books are held down with force on xeroxing machines or held open with heavy objects.

One other damaging element is perhaps the most frequent problem and the most difficult to solve: theft and mutilation of library materials. Yale reports that approximately twenty-five per cent of the collection in the undergraduate library is mutilated. The University of California at Berkeley places theft and mutilation problems as the first priority in its conservation/preservation project.

The speakers at the Library of Congress meeting concerning preservation all stressed the necessity for libraries to begin programs for planning preservation procedures. Most libraries with programs include disaster preparedness as part of preservation/conservation planning. All plans include working with collection development departments so that preservation activities are in concert with the goals and objectives of each institution. Many programs are funded externally as well as with internal budget lines. Most of the major libraries have large repair units with well-trained staff; some have microfilming labs, freezers for water-damage repair and in-house binding facilities.

At the Fondren, we monitor temperature and humidity changes in the building in an effort to maintain safe levels for the preservation of our collection. A storage program is underway to help alleviate crowding in the stacks and to take endangered books from the open stacks for preservation purposes. A committee is planning for training in preservation/conservation techniques for staff and library users as well as special training for those who work with repair and restoration of books. Problems of security and a plan for disaster preparedness are part of the committee's deliberations.

The problem is tremendous, progress is slow. With everyone's cooperation, we can and will make advances in the battle to preserve the information and knowledge contained in our library collection.



## AUTOMATION AND THE MUSIC LIBRARY

Margaret Ford

The music library at Rice University has begun using a Philips 2004 Word Processor for the bibliographic control of its scores and sound recordings. This should greatly improve access for the user. Cataloging records are printed out in book form in a columnar format which is much easier to read than thumbing through many cards. Also, any element or combination of elements in the databases can be searched on the computer terminal. Processing time will be cut down considerably enabling the large backlog of items to be made available to the user more quickly. After the backlogs are eliminated, items may be received and cataloged within the same week.

Ralph Holibaugh and Margaret Ford designed this on-line cataloging system for music materials which operates on the Philips word processor ordinarily used for administrative tasks. This system consists of separate on-line databases for scores and sound recordings. Each database is arranged alphabetically by composer and title with the most recently published item appearing first; this arrangement is similar to that of the music card catalog. Print-outs of the databases are available in the Music Library, at the main reference desk, and in the Shepherd Music School. Additional printouts are arranged by subject for both scores and recordings and record label number for sound recordings.

The format of the sound recordings database has nine columns for the following information:

- composer's last name or last name and initial
- uniform or transcribed title of the composition
- date of publication
- performers and performing groups
- disc label name
- label number (this is the discrete identifier used most often in discographies and record catalogs)
- call number
- notes (series, reissue information, etc.)
- subject heading in abbreviated form

The format for scores is similar, including composer, title, date of publication, publisher and editor, call number, notes, subject heading, and format (whether it is score, part, or vocal score).

This particular system is a subsystem of OSCAR, On-line Supplemental Catalogs at Rice, which include the various indexes, catalogs, and lists available as databases on the word processor. The serials list is used extensively by the collection development librarians for reference and fund management. OSCAR: Theses is an index of all theses and dissertations written by Rice University graduate students. Another index which is being developed will provide access to all the art exhibition catalogs.

These recent developments reflect the Fondren Library's continuing search for innovative ways to provide better service to the library user.



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Mrs. Charles W. Hamilton, receiving Friends of Fondren Library Award from John T. Cabaniss, President of the Friends of Fondren.

## HOMEcoming 1983



## GIFTS TO THE FONDREN LIBRARY

September 1, 1983-  
February 29, 1984

The Friends sponsor a gifts and memorials program for the Fondren Library which provides their members and the community at large a way to remember or honor friends and relatives. It also provides the Fondren the means to acquire books and collections beyond the reach of its regular budget. All gifts to the Fondren through the Friends' gift program complement the library's university subsidy.

Funds donated through the Friends are acknowledged by the library to the donor and to whomever the donor indicates. Gifts can be designated in honor or memory of someone or on the occasion of some signal event such as birthdays, graduation or promotion. Bookplates are placed in volumes before they become part of the library's permanent collection.

For more information about the Friend's gift program, you may call Gifts and Memorials or the Friends' office (527-4022). Gifts may be sent to Friends of Fondren, Rice University, P.O. Box 1892, Houston, Texas 77251, and qualify as charitable donations.

The Friends and the Fondren Library are grateful to acknowledge the following gifts, donations to the Friends' fund and donations of books, periodicals, and other materials to the Fondren. All gifts enhance the quality of the library's collections and enable the Fondren Library to serve more fully an ever-expanding university and Houston community.

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